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Sen. Toy honors Livonia “tree-cycler” with White Pine Award

LANSING – State Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, honored Chris Last, a recipient of the Michigan Senate’s White Pine Award for Environmental Excellence, during a ceremony last night at Clements Circle Park.

Last, president of Last Chance Logs to Lumber, was honored for his innovative work to “tree-cycle” wood from Emerald Ash Borer-infested trees, making the wood usable for things like bleachers, picnic tables, and fence posts. His organization has found an alternative means of dealing with the removal of affected trees that is more ecologically sound and cost efficient than the grinding of lumber resources.

“Lumber has always been an invaluable and highly utilized resource in Michigan, and the Emerald Ash Borer had a devastating effect on our ecology and economy,” Toy said. It is wonderful to see industrious and talented foresters like Chris Last rise to the occasion with solutions and treatments for this widespread problem.”

Toy presented Last with a Senate tribute and Last planted a white pine tree on the park grounds. Local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will care for the tree. The Clements Circle Civic Association hosted the event.

Attendees included Rep. John Pastor, R-Livonia; Livonia Mayor Jack Engebretson; local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; and members of the Clements Circle Civic Association.

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Editors note: Photos of Toy presenting the White Pine Award to Last are available on the Senate Majority Photowire at:

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Toy/Toy.htm>.